

March 24, 1994

LB 903A. 1136, 1177

SPEAKER WITHEM: LB 903A advances. General File, LB 1136.

CLERK: Mr. President, 1136, a bill originally introduced by Senator Byars. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 18 of this year. At that time it was referred to the Health Committee for public hearing. The committee has advanced the bill. There are committee amendments pending by the Health and Human Services Committee.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, it's a pleasure to bring to you the committee amendments to LB 1136, a very important bill from Senator Byars to address the need to adequately fund our developmental disability services. One of the elements of the bill that was of concern was the question of how those that have developmental disabilities or family members of those that are developmentally disabled would have input in moving forward with the legislation and with other initiatives coming out of LB 830 to try to enhance the delivery of services to the developmentally disabled. So another bill, LB 1177, introduced by Senator Rasmussen, Senator Byars and myself set up a commission, a DD Commission to work through issues that continue on this topic and rather than have two separate bills, we merged elements or the concept of 1177 into LB 1136 through these committee amendments and at least the fashion that there would be a 15-member advisory committee on developmental disabilities that would work with the Department of Public Institutions. Currently, we...there once was such a committee. It went away and we have found since then, implementation of LB 830 a few years ago, we have had an ad hoc committee chaired by Senator Rasmussen working on issues related to LB 830 and that has been very valuable to provide input from providers and recipients of services and others who are concerned and we needed to continue an input and an outlet for individuals to express themselves and to be heard by the Department of Public Institutions, so that's what the committee amendment does and I'd urge its adoption. It will provide for greater input to the Department of Public Institutions from people concerned about services to the developmentally disabled.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wesely. On the committee amendments, discussion, Senator Moore.